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Aung San Suu Kyi speaks to the crowd from the gates of her house. The poster shows her and her father, Aung San

DEMOCRACY LEADER FREED IN MYANMAR

Late in the day on 13th November soldiers removed barbed-wire barricades surrounding a house in Rangoon, the largest city in Myanmar (also known as Burma). Soon afterwards Aung San Suu Kyi came out of the building to greet hundreds of supporters who had rushed to the front gates of her house.

Ms Suu Kyi is the leader of a political party called the National League for Democracy (NLD). She has spent 15 of the last 21 years either in prison or under house arrest. To many people, since Nelson Mandela was freed in 1990, Ms Suu Kyi has been the world's most famous political prisoner. Mr Mandela spent 27 years in prison in South Africa. Four years after his release he was elected president of his country.

Many of the people waiting outside Ms Suu Kyi's house could not believe she had finally been freed. Ms Suu Kyi,

now aged 65, smiled and told the crowd she was very happy to see them all again. She then said they should go to the NLD's headquarters in Rangoon the next day, to listen to what she had to say.

Burma, as Myanmar was once called, is a former British colony. In 1947 Aung San – Ms Suu Kyi's father – became the leader of a newly independent Burma. But later that year his rivals murdered him. Ms Suu Kyi was two years old at the time. Today many people in Myanmar still call Aung San the 'father' of their country.

After the death of her husband Ms Suu Kyi's mother went to work in India, where Ms Suu Kyi went to school. Later she studied at Oxford University, in the UK. Ms Suu Kyi then moved to New York City, in the USA, where she worked for the United Nations (UN). She married a British man whom she had met at university. They had two children.

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In 1963 a group, or junta, of army generals took control of Burma. After nearly 50 years, the military junta still runs the country.

In 1988 Ms Suu Kyi returned to Myanmar to look after her elderly mother who had become ill. She left her husband and children in the UK, expecting to return to them after her mother recovered.



Aung San Suu Kyi's home in Rangoon where she has been kept under house arrest

At the time many demonstrations against the junta were taking place in Rangoon. Soldiers, obeying the orders of the generals, shot thousands of protesters. Ms Suu Kyi then made her first political speech. She declared democratic elections should be held. Ms Suu Kyi then helped to set up the NLD. Soon afterwards the junta put her under house arrest.

The junta said Ms Suu Kyi could have her freedom if she agreed to leave the country. She refused.

In 1990 the junta arranged for elections to be held. They expected political groups that supported them to get the most votes. But even though Ms Suu Kyi was under house arrest the NLD easily won. The junta refused to accept the result, and many protests followed. Thousands of NLD supporters were killed and hundreds arrested.

World leaders insisted the generals must accept the election result. They also demanded Ms Suu Kyi and the other political prisoners

be freed. Yet the junta took no notice, and the country soon became cut off from most of the rest of the world.

In 1997 Ms Suu Kyi's husband was **diagnosed** with cancer. The junta refused to let him visit his wife in Myanmar. Ms Suu Kyi then had to make a difficult decision. She knew if she returned to the UK to spend time with her husband the junta would not let her come back. She had not seen her husband for a long time but eventually decided to stay in Myanmar. Her husband died two years later.

Six days before Ms Suu Kyi was released, the junta had arranged for an election to take place. This was the first election to be held for 20 years. The NLD decided to **boycott** it. Most people said the election was neither free nor fair. Some reports said people were forced to vote for the two political groups that support the junta.

On the day after Ms Suu Kyi's release thousands of people waited outside the NLD headquarters to hear her speak. Many were wearing T-shirts with a picture of Ms Suu Kyi and the words 'we are with you' on the front. When she arrived they all clapped. Many chanted 'we love Suu'.

Ms Suu Kyi told the crowd they should not give up hope. She asked the people to tell her what they would like her to do. Ms Suu Kyi also explained she is willing to speak with the generals to discuss their differences.

Many people were surprised that Ms Suu Kyi's was freed. Some guessed it was because the generals wanted to stop other countries criticising them. Others believe the junta thinks it will now be easy to control Ms Suu Kyi and the NLD, as an election has already taken place. ■

ATTACKS ON RUSSIAN JOURNALISTS

Oleg Kashin is a Russian **journalist** who lives in Moscow, the country's capital. On the evening of 5th November he was attacked by two people, close to his home. The attackers broke his jaw, his leg, and his fingers. Mr Kashin is now in hospital recovering from his injuries.

Recently there have been several attacks on journalists working for newspapers in Russia. One human rights group says as many as 22 journalists have been murdered in the country over the past ten years. The people who carried out these attacks have never been caught or punished.

Between 1917 and 1990 the Russian-led Soviet Union was a 'one party state' run by the Communist Party. When Joseph Stalin came to power he ran the country as a dictator. The government controlled the newspapers, radio, and television stations. These never criticised what the country's leaders were doing. When the Soviet Union collapsed and broke up in 1990, Russia held its first democratic elections. Since then it has had an elected president, and an elected parliament called the Duma.



Protester who wants Mr Kashin's attackers caught

Newspaper companies, and radio and television stations, became more independent. They no longer had to write or report on what the government

NEWSCAST

UNHEALTHY SANDWICH — A group of Canadians famous for building ‘over-the-top’ high-calorie meals has come up with its newest invention. Called the ‘Angry French-Canadian’, the baguette contains French toast, bacon, and eggs. Also included is a helping of poutine, a famous French-Canadian dish of chips and cheese curds covered in gravy. The sandwich contains more than 5,000 calories. The team’s previous creation was named the Worst Pizza Ever. It was topped with various items bought from fast food chains, including deep-fried chicken and beef burgers covered with cheese.

told them to. This is known as ‘freedom of the press’. Many people believe a country can only consider itself democratic if there is freedom of the press and ‘freedom of speech’. Freedom of speech means people are able to say what they want to without fear of being punished.

Now many people are worried Russia is becoming a place where there is no press freedom and freedom of speech is restricted again.

When Vladimir Putin was president, between 2000 and 2008, he was accused of helping to shut down several newspapers and television stations that criticised his government. Mr Putin is now Russia’s prime minister.

Mr Kashin had written a newspaper article about a decision to build a new motorway through a forest. He thought the decision was wrong. Both the government and the motorway building company want the road to be built. Many therefore suspect people who didn’t

want Mr Kashin to write any more stories about the new motorway attacked him.

Recently other journalists who have written about dishonest government officials or corruption have also been attacked. In 2006 Anna Politkovskaya, a well-known Russian journalist, was murdered after writing about a war in a part of Russia called Chechnya. The people who committed this crime have never been caught.

Dmitry Medvedev, the president of Russia, says he will make sure Mr Kashin’s attackers were caught and punished. ■

HOLOGRAMS

Scientists in the USA have used a new material to create a hologram that moves almost in real time. Called holographic telepresence, it could mean in the future we’ll be able to ‘beam’ or transmit a real-time image of ourselves to anywhere in the world.

A hologram is a 2D (two dimensional) image projected in a way that makes it appear 3D (three dimensional). You can commonly see a hologram on many identification documents – such as a driver’s licence – and even in toys and games and on stickers. These holograms are often ‘sparkly’ pictures, which appear to move as you turn the surface they are on in different directions. The most **sophisticated** holograms show every detail of a 3D object, almost as if the object is really there.

Scientists make holograms using a laser and special holographic film. The laser beam passes through a beam splitter, which divides it in two. The two beams pass through lenses that spread out, or diffuse,

each beam. One is directed onto the object of which the image is being made, and then bounces onto the holographic film. The other beam shines directly onto the film. Light-sensitive chemicals in the film react to the light and capture a 3D image of the object.

The American scientists have now used this technology to transmit a holographic image that updates, or changes, every two seconds. They say it’s a step closer to ‘beaming’ the image of a person into a room in a different building, city, or even country.

The system uses several cameras directed at an object from a number of different directions or angles. The multiple images are processed and sent through a data link – such as an ethernet cable – and projected onto a screen.



Computer-generated photograph showing how holographic telepresence of a person may appear

The part of the system that makes it possible to update the image is a new type of screen material. Instead of capturing one holographic image, the screen can display changing images. Each image is ‘erased’ by one that replaces it, similar to ‘refreshing’ or reloading an image on a web page.

The scientists say their new technology still needs lots of improvements. Yet they believe one day the screen could be placed flat on a surface and the holographic 3D moving image of an object or person would appear ‘floating’ above it. ■

HELPING BLIND PEOPLE TO SEE

by Anna Grayson

A team of German doctors has tested a way of enabling blind people to see.

As part of a **clinical** trial, 11 patients had a special eye operation. All were suffering from a disease, or condition, called *retinitis pigmentosa* (often called RP). It usually starts when people are very young. As they get older it becomes gradually worse. Eventually they become blind. RP is an inherited disease, so it can run in families.

During the operation all the patients had a special microchip implanted behind one of their eyes. Within a few days three of them were able to see shapes and objects. One patient was even able to tell the time from a clock, and when looking at his name written down, corrected the spelling.

In a healthy eye, light enters through the cornea and the lens. It then passes through the main part of the eye, called the vitreous humour. The light forms an image on a thin layer, or lining, at the back of the eyeball, called the retina. The retina is rather like a very small cinema screen. It is made of light-sensitive cells called photoreceptors. These cells send messages to the brain through the optic nerve. The brain is then able to create a 'picture' of what the eye can see.

The photoreceptor cells of people who have RP gradually die off. This means their retinas can no longer 'see', or detect light. So messages are no longer sent to their brains along the optic nerve. The disease doesn't damage the front part of the eye or the optic nerve. So the microchips used in the operation were designed to replace some of the patients' dead photoreceptor cells.

Other devices to help blind people to see have been made in the past. Yet for these to work, a blind person has to wear an external camera

connected to a small computer processor unit. The new microchips are very different, because they use all the healthy parts of the eye. Light travels to the retina as normal, and the image passes from the chip straight down the optic nerve.

Each microchip does need a small battery. This was placed at the back of the skull and connected to the 'chip' with a thin wire.

When the chips were turned on, the patients could not see immediately. This was because their brains had to re-learn how to decode the images

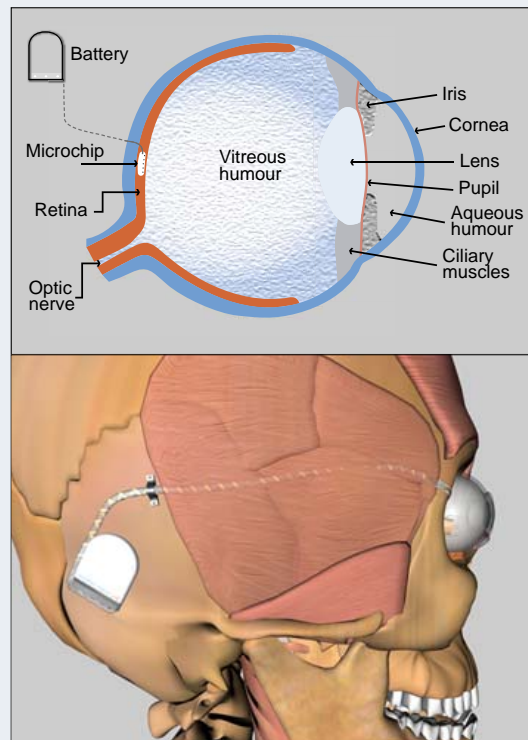
sent by the chip. Miikka Terho, one of the patients, said 'they told me that I should see dots in my eye, like light bulbs. I was a bit nervous and shaky, because nobody really knew how successful it was going to be, but when they hit the button and I could see the dots, I shouted out 'yes' at the top of my voice!'

Mr Terho went on to recognise objects, such as a banana, and he could distinguish between a knife, a fork and a spoon. Most impressively, he could recognise the outlines of people and could see arm movements from six metres (20 feet) away.

This test was a clinical trial, which took place in a laboratory. So Mr Terho and the other

patients have not been able to turn on the chips at home yet. Another clinical trial will be done in the UK next year. Doctors will carry out more research to test how long the chip will last. They also want to see if they can improve the chips to create a better image.

The Royal Society, one of the world's leading academies of science, based in the UK, says the German trial is an **unprecedented** advance. It could eventually cure the blindness of around 200,000 people around the world who have RP.



The new microchip is put just behind the retina. A fine wire links it to a battery on the back of the skull

UNITY GOVERNMENT IN IRAQ

Elections in Iraq were held last March. Yet the new government only started work on 11th November. The long delay is the result of the inconclusive election – none of the political parties that took part won. It has therefore taken eight months for the main parties to agree how they are going to work together.



Nouri al-Maliki

Ayad Allawi

The Iraqi parliament is called the Council of Representatives of Iraq. It has 325 seats. Since the election the different party leaders have been trying to form groups, or coalitions. Each was trying to form a group that had at least 163 seats, or just over half of the seats in the parliament. Yet they all failed.

On 11th November, after over 240 days of talks, the leaders of three of the biggest parties finally agreed to form a unity government. This type of government is usually formed in an emergency or if the country is facing a serious threat. In a unity government the leaders of the biggest parties each have important jobs, even if their parties oppose each other.

Iraq has three main ethnic, or religious, groups – the Kurds in the north, Shias mainly in the south, and Sunnis, the smallest group, in the centre. Until 2003, when the USA led an invasion of Iraq, the country's leader was Saddam Hussein. He and most of the people he appointed to govern the country were Sunnis.

Since the invasion Iraq has had two parliamentary elections. After the first one Nouri al-Maliki became prime minister and Jalal Talabani, a Kurdish leader, was selected as president. Most people who support Mr al-Maliki are Shias. In the most recent election his group of parties, called the National Alliance, only got 89 out of the 325 seats.

The Iraqiya Party, led by Ayad Allawi, won 91 seats – the highest number of all the parties that took part. Mr Allawi is a Shia, but many of the Sunnis in Iraq support his party. It's thought Mr al-Maliki and Mr Allawi do not like each other.

In Iraq the parliament chooses the prime minister and the president. The prime minister runs the country, while the president is a figurehead who does not have much power.

After the many months of talks, the main parties have agreed that Mr al-Maliki will continue as prime minister, even though his party did not win the most seats. Mr Talabani will also stay on as Iraq's president. Mr Allawi will run a new government department, although it is not yet known what powers his new department will have.

A member of Mr Allawi's party has been made the Speaker in parliament. This is an important position. The Speaker selects who is allowed to make speeches and checks that all members of parliament obey the rules.

Many people think it will be difficult for Mr al-Maliki and Mr Allawi to work together. On the first day the parliament met, members of Mr Allawi's party walked out in protest at a decision that had been taken. They were persuaded to return soon afterwards. Yet their walk-out showed Iraq's unity government may not last for long and new elections may have to be held. ■

SAGRADA FAMILIA

On 7th November Pope Benedict the Sixteenth, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, consecrated the Sagrada Familia (Holy Family) church in Barcelona, in Spain. A consecrated building is one that has been officially declared a holy site.

The church service to consecrate the Sagrada Familia took place 128 years after building work on the church first began in 1882. One reason the Pope consecrated the church is that the roof has recently been finished.

Antoni Gaudi designed the church. His plan for the building was very complicated. Although the church has been consecrated, completing the building work will still take many more years. The plan is for it to be finally finished in 2026, the 100th anniversary of the death of the man who designed it. When the 170 metre (558 foot) central tower is eventually completed, the church will become the tallest in the world.



Sagrada Familia

Gaudi's plan was for the church to have 18 tall towers of different heights. Nearly every part of the church will be covered in complicated carvings. This is one of the reasons work on the building has taken such a long time.

Since building work on the church first began there have been many problems, some of which have

caused long delays. Gaudi spent the last 14 years of his life working on the church. Yet the deaths of several family members badly affected him and he did less and less work on the building.

Gaudi was buried in the Sagrada Familia when he died in 1926. After his death several other architects took on the work. The latest one has worked on the church for over 40 years.

One of the big problems with building the church was that Gaudi kept changing his mind about how it should look. The only remaining set of his plans was destroyed during the Spanish Civil war in 1938. So it's been difficult for architects to work out exactly what Gaudi wanted.

The church has become one of Spain's most popular tourist attractions. Every year around two million people visit it. The money from these tourists pays for all the building work.

During the service to consecrate the Sagrada Familia the Pope sprinkled holy water on the church's altar. Over 6,500 people attended the consecration service. ■

NUCLEAR TRAIN PROTESTS

A train carrying 123 tonnes of radioactive waste arrived in the town of Dannerberg, in northern Germany, on 8th November. Thousands of anti-nuclear protesters met the train.

The train began its journey near La Hague, in northern France. It took three days to travel the 1,450 kilometres (900 miles) to northern Germany. The train, which has been designed to safely carry nuclear waste, travels very slowly.

The waste is stored in special white coloured containers. These containers are made so they cannot be damaged if there were an accident, or if a fire broke out.



'Nuclear waste train'

The nuclear waste carried by the train came from spent, or used up, nuclear fuel from some of Germany's nuclear power stations. The spent fuel is sent to the Areva Company's nuclear processing plant in northern France. There it is reprocessed into nuclear waste. This waste is then sent back to Germany where it is stored underground.

Areva is a large French company mostly owned by the French government. The company builds and operates nuclear power stations. It also reprocesses spent nuclear fuel from its own power stations and those in other countries. Unlike many other countries, France gets most of its electricity from nuclear power.

As well as Germany, Areva also has arrangements with Japan, Switzerland, Belgium, and The Netherlands to reprocess these countries' spent nuclear fuel.

Many people protested in the towns through which the train travelled on its journey between France and Germany. Some of the protesters described the train as 'Chernobyl on wheels'.

Chernobyl is a city in Ukraine. It is the site of the world's worst nuclear accident. At the time Ukraine was part of the Russian-led Soviet

Union. In 1986 there was an explosion in part of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. This led to a dangerous radioactive leak. A large area around the power plant is still poisoned by radioactivity.

The protesters in Dannerberg tried to stop the train by sitting on the train tracks and chaining themselves to the rails. The train had to keep stopping so German police could remove the protesters. The protesters claim nuclear waste is very dangerous and there is no completely safe way to store it.

When the train arrived, the nuclear waste containers were loaded onto trucks. They were taken to the town of Gorleben, 19 kilometres (12 miles) away, where the waste is kept deep underground. Protesters driving tractors tried to block the road to Gorleben.

This was not the first time the nuclear waste train had made this

NEWSCAST

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS — On 6th and 7th November, the president of the USA, Barack Obama, and his wife Michelle made an official visit to India. One place they visited was Mani Bhavan, a museum and tourist attraction in the city of Mumbai. Museum officials prepared for Mr and Mrs Obama's visit by improving the security – they removed all the coconuts from the surrounding trees. The officials explained they did not want a coconut to fall on the president's head. Several people are hurt each year by falling coconuts, and officials said they did not want to 'take a chance' on injuring Mr or Mrs Obama.



journey. In the past there have been fewer protesters. Most people believe there were more protests this time because of a recent announcement by the German government. It declared most of its nuclear power stations will stay open for another ten years or more. Previously the government said it had plans to close most of them down within the next few years. ■

PRESIDENT BUSH'S BOOK

George W Bush was president of the USA from 2001 to 2009. He won two presidential elections. On 9th November the former president published a book he has written called *Decision Points*.

Since standing down as president nearly two years ago Mr Bush has not talked about his time as president, or given any television or radio interviews. During his presidency he made some controversial decisions. These included his orders for American forces to invade both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Some people now describe President Bush as being the 'least popular president in American history'. Yet others think this is unfair. They say President Bush was 'unlucky' because he happened to be the president on '9/11'.

This term is used to refer to 11th September 2001, when the al-Qaeda militant group attacked the USA. Members of al-Qaeda took over, or hijacked, four American passenger planes. They flew two of them into the World Trade Center building, in New York City. Another was flown

into part of the Pentagon, the headquarters of the American military, and the fourth plane crashed into a field. Around 3,000 people were killed in these attacks.

Soon after 9/11 President Bush ordered the invasion of Afghanistan. This was because al-Qaeda had its training camps in the country. At the time many people in America and other countries agreed with the president's decision. But nine years later the war in Afghanistan is still going on, and some now believe it was a mistake to invade the country.

The war in Iraq was different. President Bush and a few other world leaders such as Tony Blair, who was prime minister of the UK, said they were sure Iraq was making dangerous weapons – known as Weapons of Mass Destruction or WMD. President Bush wanted to invade the country to stop Saddam Hussein, Iraq's president, from using these weapons in the future.

Yet many people disagreed with his decision. They claimed 9/11 had nothing to do with Iraq and there was no proof the WMD existed. Some even say the 2003 invasion was illegal under international law.

Many civilians were killed during the war in Iraq, which has now come to an end. Yet the country continues to have problems and around 50,000 American troops are still based in Iraq. No WMD was ever found. In his book President Bush admits to having a 'sickening feeling' about the failure to find any WMD in Iraq.

The book also mentions the 'waterboarding' of some prisoners captured in Afghanistan. Waterboarding is when a wet towel is placed over a person who has been forced to lie on his or her back.

Water is then poured on the towel. This makes the person feel as if he or she is drowning.

President Bush claims information the prisoners gave after being waterboarded helped to prevent other attacks. Yet most claim waterboarding is a type of torture – which is illegal in many countries, including the USA. These people believe the reputation of the USA has been badly damaged because President Bush did nothing to stop the torture of these prisoners. ■

MISSILE MYSTERY SOLVED?

On the evening of 8th November an American television company's helicopter was flying close to the city of Los Angeles. The staff inside were reporting on the traffic. They were surprised to see what looked like a large missile being fired from somewhere around 54 kilometres (35 miles) out at sea. They filmed the contrail of the 'missile', which seemed to be going straight up into the air. Their video was later broadcast on the television news.



Missile-like contrail caused by jet aircraft

A contrail is the name given to the vapour trails you can see high in the sky from the back of jet aircraft. 'Contrail' is short for 'condensation trail'. Hot gasses coming out of a plane's engines create the trails. The water in the gasses cools in the cold air and forms tiny droplets of water.

So contrails are long lines of cloud-like water droplets.

Many people were convinced that a missile created the contrail filmed by the people in the helicopter. Some suggested a navy ship must have launched it. Others were sure it was a type of rocket being tested by the American air force. A few even suspected it was a missile fired by a submarine from another country, such as Japan or China.

However, officials at the Pentagon – the headquarters of the American military – immediately said it was not an American missile that caused the mystery contrail. They insisted no American military missiles had been tested in this part of the USA on that day. The officials also said if another country had fired a military missile so close to the USA they would have known about it.

After seeing the video on the television news some scientists said they thought the contrail had been created by one of the many passenger aircraft that fly over this area. Two days later, experts at the Pentagon, who closely examined the video, agreed. They too said it was just a normal jet aircraft contrail.

One expert explained the contrail had been an optical illusion, or a 'trick of the eye'. He said if the weather is clear, and in a certain light, a distant jet aircraft contrail can look like a missile going up into the air close by. He said although it did not look like it, the contrail began far away on the horizon and then continued at the same height above the sea. The expert said the aircraft that made it was probably very far away and estimated that the 'missile-like' contrail was really over 483 kilometres (300 miles) long. ■

UN WOMEN

Human rights [activists](#) have complained about Saudi Arabia and the Democratic Republic of Congo being appointed to a new United Nations (UN) organisation, or council.



The full name of the new organisation is the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the [Empowerment](#) of Women. It is also called 'UN Women'. The 41 UN member countries that will be part of the new council were selected on 10th November. UN Women will start work on 1st January 2011.

Last July UN leaders decided that four separate UN groups that all work for women's rights should be joined, or merged, together. This larger group will work to try to make sure women and girls in all UN member countries have equal rights to men.

Of UN Women's member countries, 35 were selected from regional groups. There are ten from Africa, ten from Asia, four from Eastern Europe, five from Western Europe and six from Latin America and the Caribbean. Another six countries – Mexico, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the UK, and the USA – were also appointed. These were selected because they have given money to UN women's groups. Each country will remain on the new council for either two or three years before being replaced by another UN member country.

People who support women's rights were angry that both Iran and Saudi Arabia were among the countries that wanted to be part of UN Women. They argued that in both countries women are treated unfairly. For example, in Saudi Arabia women's rights are restricted. They are not allowed to drive cars on public roads. And a woman must have a male guardian, who is a relative, from whom she must get permission to open a bank account or go to work. Women are also not allowed to go out unless their male guardian accompanies them. Women's rights supporters also say the laws in Iran actually encourage violence against women.

In the end Iran was not elected onto the new council. Yet Saudi Arabia, as one of the countries that has donated money to UN women's groups in the past, was. Another complaint was that the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was one of the ten African countries appointed to UN Women. Currently a civil war is being fought in the country. Recently there have been reports that government soldiers have attacked and raped thousands of women in parts of the DRC where opposition groups are based.



Michelle Bachelet

Supporters of women's rights said selecting countries such as Saudi Arabia and the DRC to UN Women is a mistake. They say it shows women's rights aren't very

NewsCAST

GIVING IT ALL AWAY — A couple in Canada has surprised everyone by giving away almost all the money they won on the lottery. Allen and Violet Large won a lottery jackpot, or main prize, of C\$11.2 million (£6.9 million) last July. Since then they have decided to give all the money to family members, friends, and charities. Mr and Mrs Large are both retired. They insist they don't need the money because they have saved up for their retirement. Mr and Mrs Large say they want to help other people who have a greater need for the money. As well as to family and friends and charities, they have also donated money to local hospitals and fire fighting services.

important to the UN. One critic is Shirin Ebadi, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and human rights lawyer from Iran. She says having these countries on a council that is supposed to promote women's rights is 'a joke'.

UN leaders have appointed Michelle Bachelet to lead UN Women. Ms Bachelet is a former president of Chile. During her time as president she was a very popular leader. Ms Bachelet stood down in March this year, after her four-year presidential term came to an end. ■

UNEVEN MOON

One side of the Moon always faces away from the Earth. This side is often called the 'dark side' or the 'far side' of the Moon. It was not until the 1960s, when early spacecraft flew all the way around the Moon for the first time, that scientists were

able to see pictures of what the far side looked like.

The scientists were surprised to see the dark side looked quite different from the side we can see in the night sky. It has many more craters and fewer of the wide dark flat areas, called basins, which can be seen on the 'nearside'. Once scientists had managed to accurately measure the Moon they discovered the far side bulges outward near its middle. In some places its surface rises six kilometres (3.7 miles) higher than on the near side.

Now scientists in the USA have created a model that explains some of the reasons why the Moon is an unusual shape. Billions of years ago the Moon's crust was less solid, and floated on an inner layer of liquid molten rock. At this time, the scientists explain, the crust was affected by the gravitational pull of the Earth. This caused the Moon's crust at its poles to stretch and get thinner, and the crust in the middle to bulge outwards. This gravitational pull is similar to the way in which the Moon helps to cause the oceans to rise and fall – the tides – on the Earth.



Moon's nearside

Moon's far side

When the Moon cooled and became more solid, the crust kept its uneven shape. Scientists know the moon's crust is thinner at its poles, which supports the theory. But if the scientists' theory is correct the crust should also bulge outwards around the Moon's middle. This is true, but

only on the far side. The near side seems to have 'lost' its bulge.

The scientists do not know why this is. But they suspect it may have something to do with volcanic activity that occurred on the Moon billions of years ago. This volcanic activity is also thought to have created the flatter darker areas on the Moon's near side.

The scientists think Saturn's moon Titan and Jupiter's moon Europa may be affected in the same way that our Moon was shaped by the Earth billions of years ago. ■

HAJJ PILGRIMAGE

Hundreds of thousands of people have travelled to Mecca, the Islamic holy city, in Saudi Arabia, for the annual Hajj pilgrimage. This year the Hajj takes place between 14th and 18th November. Many Muslims who travel to Saudi Arabia from other countries stay for at least two weeks. Some stay even longer.

There are an estimated 1.6 billion Muslims in the world. All are expected to perform the Hajj at least once in their lives, as long as they are healthy enough, and can afford it. The pilgrimage is what's known as one of the 'pillars' of Islam. This means it is one of the fundamental, or most important, things on which Islam is based. A pilgrimage to Mecca is a spiritual journey meant to help Muslims commit to their faith and cleanse their souls.

Officials in Saudi Arabia say they are able to accept around 2.5 million Muslims from other countries each year. This year around 200,000 people have arrived from Indonesia, the country with the largest population of Muslims, and 180,000 from India.

As well as visiting Mecca Muslims travel to Mina, about five kilometres (three miles) from Mecca, and to Mount Arafat. There they perform **rituals** that are part of the pilgrimage.

In the past, especially at the pilgrimage site in Mina, there have been crushes and stampedes among the huge crowds. Many people have died in these accidents. There are also a lot of extra vehicles on the roads connecting the different places people visit during the Hajj.

This year Saudi Arabian officials say they have put in place several new technological devices to make sure the annual pilgrimage is accident-free. A three-level bridge has been built at Mina. This bridge replaces a tunnel where accidents have happened in the past. Special cameras have been placed on the bridge. These can record the density of people on the bridge. So the flow of people crossing it at any one time can be controlled.



The Kaaba at Mecca, in Saudi Arabia

A new small or 'light' railway has also been built, to transport pilgrims around the sites. Busses will still be used as well. Each bus has been fitted with a Global Positioning System (GPS) device. Officials can now tell exactly where each bus is. This means they can monitor all the traffic and, if a bus breaks down, send assistance to get it off the road immediately.

One Canadian Muslim man has also developed a new way for people

to plan their pilgrimage. He said he had the idea when he was packing his case to make his pilgrimage five years ago. The case was full of heavy books and papers – prayer manuals and instructions. When he returned, he began developing an application that works on certain types of mobile phones. His 'app' gives the phone's owner access to all the necessary information electronically. The app even gives access to special prayers that have been recorded as MP3s.

This year many Muslims have complained about the cost of going on the Hajj. They say it is becoming more and more expensive to pay for hotel rooms and food. Recently many small older hotels in Mecca have been knocked down, and larger modern ones built in their place. These charge much higher prices for rooms. ■

ELECTION IN JORDAN

An election for Jordan's lower house of parliament was held on 9th November. The election brought to an end a 12-month period during which the country did not have any elected members of parliament.

Jordan is a constitutional monarchy. This means it has a king and an elected parliament. However, unlike other constitutional monarchies such as the UK, Sweden and The Netherlands, where the king or queen has little power, Jordan's king still runs and controls the country.

The parliament in Jordan is called the National Assembly. It has an upper and lower house. The upper house is called the Senate. It has around 55 Senators. All are appointed by the king and not elected by

the people. The lower house, called the Chamber of Deputies, is elected every four years.

One year ago Abdullah the Second, the king of Jordan, suddenly **dissolved** the House of Deputies. Closing down an elected group or 'house' in this way is known as a 'dissolution'.



King Abdullah the Second of Jordan

The king claimed he dissolved the lower house because its elected members were lazy, dishonest, and did not do their jobs properly. Few people in the country complained about what the king had done. The members of the lower house had all been elected in 2007, so they were only halfway through their four-year term at the time of the dissolution.

Over the last 12 months some laws about elections to the Chamber of Deputies have been changed. For example, the number of members has been increased from 110 to 120, and the number of members elected by people living in the cities and in the country was also altered. Some seats are reserved for people elected by smaller special groups such as Christians. And 12 seats must be held by women.

In Jordan there are two main political groups. One is a tribal group, which always supports the king. The other is called the Islamic Action Front (IAF). The IAF was unhappy with the changes to the laws about the elections. Most of its supporters live in the cities. The IAF claims

people living in the cities should elect more members to the lower house than those living in the countryside. As a protest it declared it would not take part in the elections.

Seventy-eight of the 120 people elected are new members who were not in the lower house when it was dissolved last year. Election officials say 52% of the people in Jordan who are allowed to vote did so. The IAF disagreed. It said because its supporters had chosen not to take part, the figure was much lower.

The next election to the Chamber of Deputies in Jordan will take place in four years' time. ■

MAGNA CARTA CELEBRATIONS LAUNCHED

Officials and historians in the UK held a ceremony on 12th November to mark the start of five years of celebrations. These celebrations will lead up to the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, in 2015.

NEWSCAST

WHAT'S IN A NAME? — In France two families have unsuccessfully fought a car company in court because of the name of one of its new cars. Renault has decided to call its new electric car 'Zoe'. The families' surname is Renault and both have a daughter called Zoe. They claimed the girls will be teased at school because they have the same name as a car. The judge eventually decided the two daughters will not be 'directly harmed' by others teasing them about their names. The decision means the Renault car company will now be allowed to name its new car Zoe.

Magna Carta is a Latin phrase. It means 'the great charter'. Historians say the charter, written in England in 1215, is the basis for the modern idea of a constitution, or a country's rules that set out people's legal rights.

The idea for Magna Carta came about because of the actions of the King of England at the time, King John. In the 13th century kings and queens had a lot more power than monarchs do today. They governed the country and decided on new laws. At the time King John made many decisions and laws that annoyed the landowning noblemen, called barons. Many of his decisions were about increasing taxes. This meant the barons had to pay the king large amounts of money.

As people became more and more annoyed with King John's decisions, a group of barons decided something had to be done. They wrote down 63 rules that meant the king could not just do whatever he wanted. In 1215, at a place called Runnymede, King John was eventually forced to agree to the rules, which became Magna Carta.

One of the most important rules in Magna Carta was about the legal system. It became totally separate from the king. Before, the king could control and use the legal system to his advantage. Now he had to obey the laws like everyone else in the country.

Once Magna Carta had been agreed scribes hand-wrote numerous copies on parchment, a type of paper made from animal skin. These were sent to different parts of the

country, so everyone knew what the new rules were. Four original copies of Magna Carta still exist.

Some people say Magna Carta wasn't really that important for the rights of ordinary people. Many of the new rules only applied to wealthy people who owned land. Most historians agree King John did

not intend for Magna Carta to last, and that he only agreed to it to stop the barons from removing him from power.

However, today the law in the UK (and in many other countries) still follows one section, or clause, of Magna Carta. It says

no free person can be imprisoned unless he has been tried and found guilty of a crime by his 'equals'. This still happens in modern legal systems, where law courts select a jury of ordinary people to take part in a person's trial. They then decide whether the person on trial is guilty.

On 12th November officials gathered to launch the celebrations in Runnymede. There are plans to make, or mint, a special Magna Carta coin, and for 15th June 2015 (the 800th anniversary) to be a UK national holiday. ■

SUNBURNT WHALES

A new report says whales swimming off the coast of Mexico are suffering from sunburn.

The scientists took skin samples and photographs of blue whales, sperm whales, and fin whales. Parts of their skin showed blisters and changes in pigmentation, or colour.



The researchers said the worst-affected were blue whales because their skin is quite pale.

Although whales live in the sea, they are mammals. This means their lungs need to breathe air. Whales must therefore come up to the surface of the ocean to breathe. Mother whales also feed their young, or calves, close to the surface of the water. This is when their skin is exposed to the Sun's rays.



Blue whale and calf

The scientists think the whales' sunburn has been caused by parts of

the ozone layer being too thin. Ozone is a gas. In the atmosphere there is a layer of ozone, of varying thickness, between 13 and 40 kilometres (eight and 25 miles) above the Earth's surface. The ozone layer filters out or stops most of the Sun's harmful rays – known as UV or ultra violet rays – from reaching the surface of the planet. It is these rays that cause sunburn and damage to the skin.

Some chemicals used by humans are harmful to the ozone layer. One of these is a chemical compound called a chlorofluorocarbon (CFC). In the mid-1990s it became known that CFCs were damaging the ozone layer. CFCs were used in refrigerators. They were also used in many different types of spray or aerosol cans.

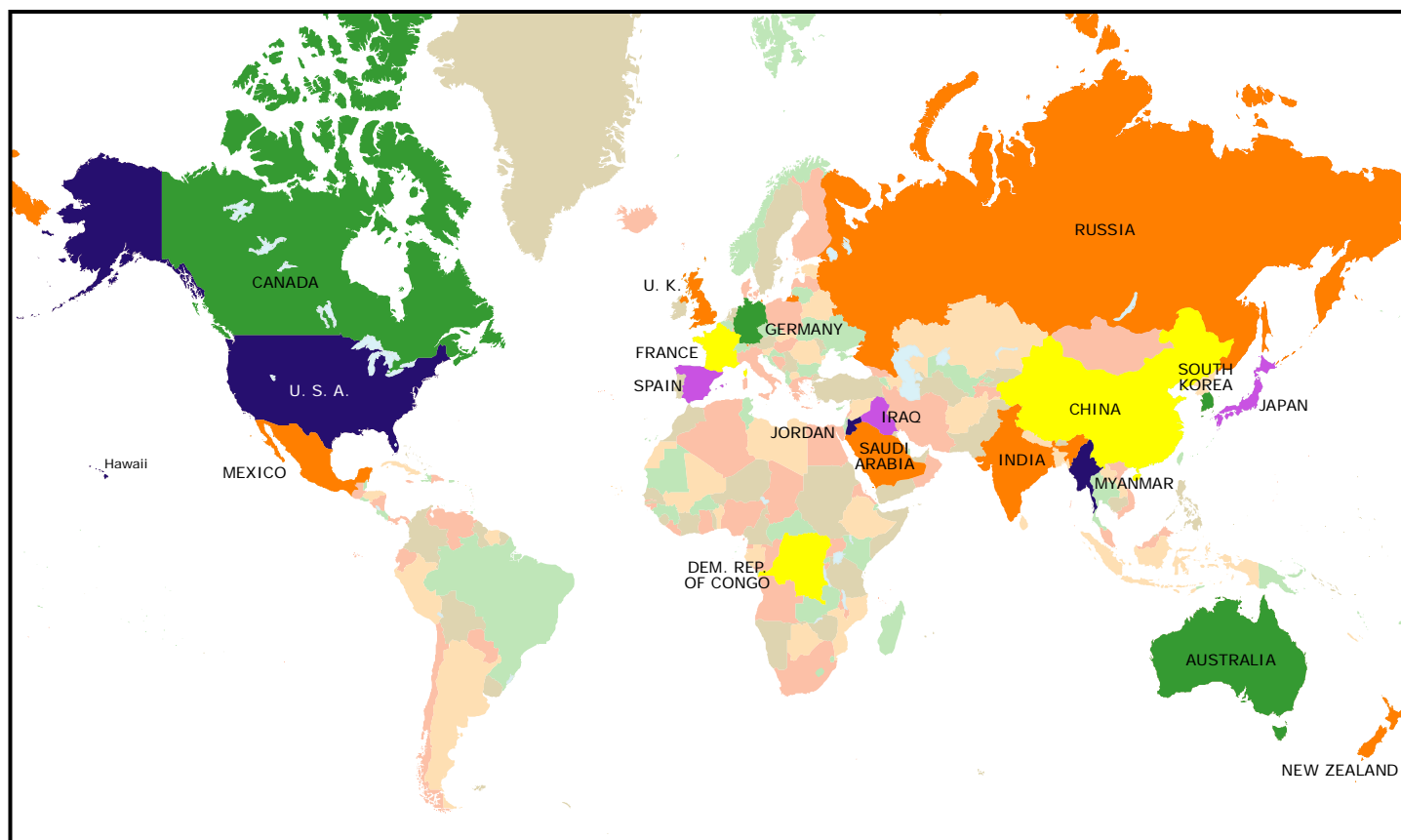
After discovering that CFCs released into the atmosphere affected the ozone layer, companies were ordered to stop using them. Now

different types of chemicals that are not as damaging have replaced CFCs. Most scientists agree the damage to the ozone layer caused by CFCs allows more harmful UV rays to reach the Earth's surface.

The scientists studying the whales think they are getting sunburn because less ozone means more of the Sun's harmful rays are reaching the surface of the sea where they live. It's also possible there have been fewer clouds over the ocean off the Mexican coast. This, the scientists say, could be another reason the whales are getting more exposure to the Sun. ▣

REMEMBRANCE DAY

At 11 o'clock in the morning on 11th November, people in many countries observed two minutes of



This map shows countries to which news stories refer in this issue. Visit www.newsademic.com for more detailed world maps.

silence. This period of silence is held to remember all the people who have lost their lives while serving their countries during conflicts and wars.



Poppies growing on a First World War battlefield

Known as Remembrance Day, 11th November is the anniversary of the end of the First World War (1914 – 1918). On this day at 11 o'clock in the morning in 1918 the countries involved in the war agreed to stop fighting. This type of cease-fire agreement is also known as an armistice. So Remembrance Day is also called Armistice Day. In the USA 11th November is called Veterans' Day. A veteran is someone who has served in the armed forces.

In the UK, the first Armistice Day was held on November 11th 1919, exactly 12 months after the end of the First World War. At the time the UK had a large empire. Thousands of soldiers from countries that were part of this empire also fought and died in the First and Second World Wars. Some of these countries, most of which are now

independent, also hold Remembrance Day parades on 11th November.

Many people wear a red paper poppy on Armistice Day. The poppy flower has become a symbol of Remembrance Day. This is because of a poem called *In Flanders Fields*. The poem describes the battlefields in Flanders – a part of Belgium and northern France where fierce fighting took place during the First World War. In Flanders millions of red poppies grow wild in the fields. For many people, the Flanders poppies represent the hundreds of thousands of soldiers killed during the war.

In the UK, on 14th November, a special Remembrance Day ceremony and parade was held at the Cenotaph, a war memorial in London, the capital city. This ceremony is held in the UK on the second Sunday in November every year. Queen Elizabeth



The Cenotaph, in London, UK

the Second, and the UK's prime minister and other senior politicians, all attended the ceremony. Each placed a wreath of poppies at the Cenotaph. Military bands and people who have served in the armed forces then marched past the war memorial.

This year Barack Obama, the president of the USA, was in South Korea, taking part in an important international meeting, on 11th November. Around 30,000 American troops are based in the country. President Obama therefore attended a Veterans' Day ceremony at one of the USA's South Korean military bases.

Many troops from Australia and New Zealand took part in the First and Second World Wars. Yet people who died in these wars are now mainly remembered on 25th April. This day is called ANZAC (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps) Day. It marks the anniversary of the start of the Battle of Gallipoli, in Turkey, in 1915. This was the first large First World War battle in which soldiers from Australia and New Zealand fought. Thousands were killed or injured. ■

ELECTRIC CURRENT MATHS

Would you like to be better at maths? A team of scientists at a UK university says it has found a way to improve our brains' ability with numbers. The scientists studied what happens when an electrical current is applied to part of the brain. They were surprised to discover it seems to improve people's mathematical abilities.

The scientists' experiment involved 15 young adults. Each person had [electrodes](#) attached to his or her head. The participants were asked to learn a set of symbols that represented the numbers from zero to nine.

A very small electric current of one milliamp was passed from left to right, through the brains of five of the people while they learnt the symbols. Another five had a small electric current passed from right to left. And no electric current was passed through the brains of the other five. The tiny electric current passed through areas at the back of the brain, called the parietal lobes.

After they had spent time learning the symbols, the participants were given simple number problems to solve. For example, they

were shown two symbols and had to say which was the bigger number, or they were asked to line up the symbols in order.

The scientists discovered the people who had had the right-to-left current performed the best. Those who had the left-to-right current made the most mistakes. And those who received no current were in between.

The scientists say their discovery might be useful for people who have dyscalculia. This is a form of [dyslexia](#) where a person has trouble recognising numbers. The scientists now believe a tiny electrical current passed through the brain – ‘electrical current therapy’ – might help people with dyscalculia to work out numbers and sequences more easily.

Another possibility, the scientists hope, is using the electrical current therapy for people who have suffered brain damage through an accident or a stroke. Brain damage can alter the way in which the brain works. So the scientists think learning which parts of the brain respond to the electrical current will be useful to help reverse the effects of brain damage.

The leader of the scientific team said he was pleased with the experiment. Yet he warned the results do not mean people should give themselves electric shocks if they want to be better at maths. ■



G20 group photograph

G20 MEETS

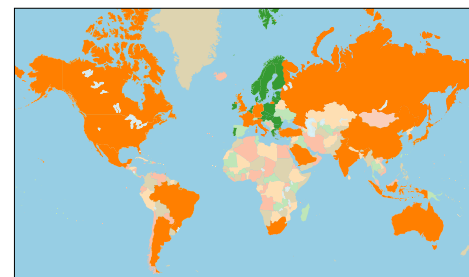
The leaders of the G20 group of countries held a meeting, or summit, between 11th and 12th November, in Seoul, the capital of South Korea.

The G20 – which stands for Group of 20 – includes the world’s 19 wealthiest countries plus the European Union (EU). The EU has 27 member countries. Four of these, the UK, Germany, France, and Italy, are ‘full’ members of the G20.

The G20 countries are estimated to have around 65% of the world’s population and are responsible for 80% of the world’s total economy. The first G20 meeting was held in Berlin, the capital of Germany, in 1999. Recently the group has

been meeting twice every year, but from 2011 G20 summits will be held annually.

Most of the discussions were about the value of member countries’ currencies and the [imbalances](#) in global trade.



► G20 member countries ► Countries represented by the EU at G20 meetings

The value of most larger countries’ currencies goes up and down when compared with each other. Currencies that alter in value in this way are known as ‘floating currencies’. These changes in value happen in ‘real time’. This means the value of a currency when compared with another can change every minute. When a country has a strong economy it is not unusual for its currency to rise in value when compared with other currencies. When its economy is weak, its currency will probably lose value.

G20 MEMBERS

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Argentina | Germany | Saudi Arabia |
| Australia | India | South Africa |
| Brazil | Indonesia | South Korea |
| Canada | Italy | Turkey |
| China | Japan | The UK |
| European Union (EU) | Mexico | The USA |
| France | Russia | |

NewsCAST

CHOPSTICK OPERATION — A man in China is recovering from surgery to have an object removed from his stomach. The man was rushed to hospital because he had some internal bleeding. Surgeons discovered a chopstick inside him. The man had swallowed it – but not recently. The man confessed he swallowed the chopstick 28 years ago. Doctors said the wood had become rotten and bent because it had been inside his stomach for so long. The man said he did not go to hospital when he first swallowed the chopstick because he was scared to have surgery.

These changes in value can be very important. If a country's currency loses value against others it means the goods it makes become less expensive for other countries to buy. This often means it sells more, which can help to improve the country's economy. If a country's currency gets stronger, the opposite may happen.

Recently some governments have been doing things that are meant to keep their currencies weak. For instance, the USA has been printing huge amounts of extra dollars. Doing this makes the value of the US dollar weaker when compared with other currencies. This therefore helps the USA sell more goods to other countries. When a country competes with another to make its currency 'cheaper' it is often called a 'currency war'.

Trade imbalances happen when countries export much more than they import. For example, China and Germany currently sell large amounts of goods to other countries. Yet they do not import much. This means these countries have a trade

'surplus'. Countries that import much more than they export, such as the USA, have a trade 'deficit'.

China has the largest surplus in the world and the USA the biggest deficit. Most economic experts say it would be better for everyone if world trade did not have large imbalances and countries' imports and exports were more 'equal'.

The USA claims China has caused these trade problems. It also accuses it of a 'currency war'. American officials say China deliberately makes sure the value of its currency, the yuan, is cheap when compared to the US dollar. This, the officials say, is one reason China exports a lot to the USA, but buys few American made goods.

Although currency wars and trade imbalances were discussed at the G20 meeting no agreements were made to solve the problems they have caused. All the members say they will continue to try to find a solution in the future.

The next G20 meeting will be held in November 2011, in France. ■

APEC MEETING

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is an economic and political organisation. APEC's annual meeting, or summit, took place in Yokohama, in Japan, on 14th

and 15th November. Naoto Kan, the prime minister of Japan, hosted the meeting.

APEC has 21 member countries, although it prefers to call them 'member economies'. Most members are countries that have coastlines around the Pacific Ocean. Today it is estimated that APEC member economies have 40% of the world's population and are responsible for 54% of its total economy. APEC members include large countries as well as much smaller ones such as Brunei and Singapore.



The APEC meeting took place immediately after the G20 meeting in Seoul, the capital of South Korea. Nine APEC members are also member countries of the G20. So the leaders of these nine countries travelled to Yokohama as soon as the G20 meeting had finished.

Most of the discussions at the APEC meeting were about how to make trade easier among member countries. The members talked about creating a free trade area around the Pacific Ocean. Several of the world's fastest-growing economies are member countries of APEC. The three largest economies

APEC MEMBER ECONOMIES

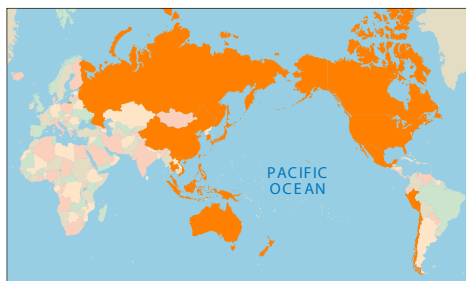
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|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Australia | Japan | Russia |
| Brunei | Malaysia | Singapore |
| Canada | Mexico | South Korea |
| Chile | New Zealand | Taiwan |
| China | Papua New Guinea | Thailand |
| Hong Kong, China | Peru | The USA |
| Indonesia | Philippines | Vietnam |

in the world – the USA, China and Japan – are all APEC members.

Recently Japan and China have been arguing about the ownership of some small islands in the East China Sea. Prime minister Kan and Hu Jintao, the president of China, held a special meeting to discuss them.

One well-known part of APEC meetings is when member countries' leaders dress in the national costume of the host country for a group photograph. The photograph often appears on international newspapers' front pages the day after the meeting. The American president Bill Clinton started this tradition in 1993, when the APEC meeting was held in the USA. He persuaded the leaders to wear American leather flight jackets for a special group photograph. Since then APEC leaders have been photographed wearing many different types of clothing, including Korean and Vietnamese national dress and Peruvian ponchos.

However, this year Prime Minister Kan decided not to follow the tradition by asking the leaders to put on kimonos, the national dress of Japan. Instead they were asked to wear 'smart casual' clothes for the group photograph.



► APEC member countries

Next year's APEC summit will be held in Hawaii, part of the USA. Barack Obama, the American president, has already joked that he is looking forward to seeing APEC leaders dressed in Hawaiian shirts for the group photograph. ■

UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

On 20th November 1959 and 1989 the United Nations (UN) adopted two important documents. Both were about children's rights and welfare. What's become known as Universal Children's Day is now held every year on 20th November.

The document written in 1959 is called the UN's Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It says all children should have the same rights and freedoms, no matter which country they live in. Some of these rights include the right to an education, the right to have time to play, and the right not to be forced to do a job.

The Rights of the Child Declaration isn't a legal document, so countries don't have to obey it. Yet the document signed in 1989, called the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, is different. Most of the 192 UN member countries have ratified it, or included what it says into their country's laws.

Ratifying the Convention means a country must follow its rules. Each country has to send frequent reports to a UN committee. These help the UN to check on the welfare of the children in the country and make sure the government is following all the rules.

The Convention says everyone under the age of 18 is entitled to special protection and help from governments. They must have access to education and health care. The UN encourages governments to ensure all children grow up in a positive and happy environment that helps to develop their abilities. It

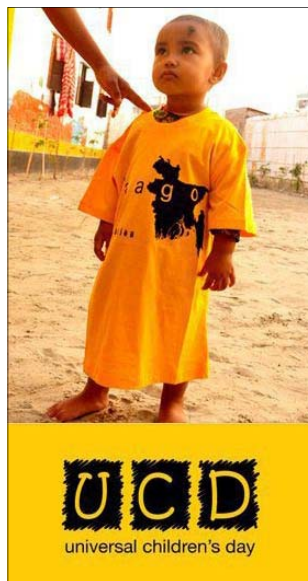
also says children must be educated to understand what their rights are.

In 2000, all countries signed up to a series of agreements called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These are targets on im-

proving human rights, which must be reached by 2015. UNICEF, the United Nations organisation responsible for promoting children's rights, says six of the eight MDGs have something to do with children's rights. These include making sure all children in the world have a free primary education, and reducing by two-thirds the number of deaths

of children under five years old.

One activity in which many organisations and governments participate on Universal Children's Day is reading. Educators say reading to young children every day is one of the most important ways to improve their education. This means they are better able to understand their rights and how to use them. ■



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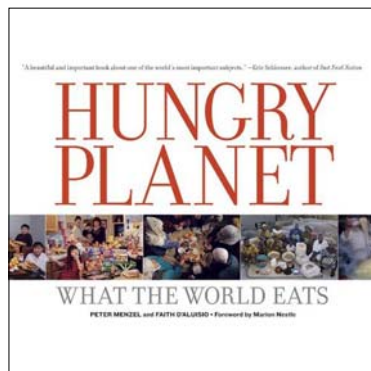
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B O O K R E V I E W

HAVE YOU READ ...?



agribusinesses have combined with consumerism to produce a revolution – a revolution in what and how we eat.

Supermarket shelves today are filled with thousands and thousands of different options, most of which are imported – the idea at least, if not the entire product. But the exchange of foods does not stop there, because food businesses and products are now being exported all over the world. For example, people almost everywhere can drink Coca-Cola, while McDonald's is a popular restaurant in practically every country today. And in many western countries, foods from other places such as Thailand, India, and China have become favourites.

The main idea of this book is quite simple and also very clever. The authors take a photograph of a family with a week's groceries laid out on the kitchen or dinner table – to show you what the family members consume in a week and how much they spend on it.

This isn't done in just one country, but several. The authors managed to visit 24 countries and build their photographic food profile on 30 families. Then comes the best part: the authors discuss, compare and contrast, and study the process, culture and traditions behind each family's choice of foods. I found it really interesting to look at the examples of the approaches to food in different countries, and having photographs to show the differences makes them stick in my mind.

Some of the facts and figures are chilling and scary health-wise. For instance, the 'most developed' countries in the world increasingly eat the most fats and processed foods containing chemicals. Many families in less-developed countries eat fresher, unprocessed

I don't do the grocery shopping or cook regularly. But after reading this book I decided it might be a good idea to change!

The focus of *Hungry Planet* begins in the developed nations, where the effects and processes of globalisation, mass tourism, and huge

foods – but often, a variety of nutritious things isn't available. At a time when hundreds of millions of people are starving or malnourished, there are more people in the world who are obese or overeating.

The photographers admit this study is only a small sampling of what a nation or culture typically eats. But they say it nevertheless shows the overall trends of each nation. Most importantly, it shows the nutritional trends of our world and humanity as a whole.

The authors spent a lot of time with each family, observing people farming, shopping, cooking and eating their foods. Only afterwards did the authors create a portrait or profile for the family to compare with other families from around the world. The book takes us from the USA, where people don't really know if the food they are eating is genetically modified or not, to Papua New Guinea where many people are blind due to vitamin deficiencies.

How we sit down to eat together is really the first and most basic type of social gathering for humans, and the book discusses the changes this social system is currently going through. As I read, I think I formed a picture in my mind of what the authors are trying to share. That old saying 'You are what you eat' isn't so accurate anymore. I think this book shows us it might be better to say 'We are *how* we eat!'

Hungry Planet – What the World Eats by Faith D'Aluisio. Photographer: Peter Menzel. Material World.

Reviewed by **Chris Tarn**

WANT US TO REVIEW A BOOK THAT YOU HAVE READ AND ENJOYED?

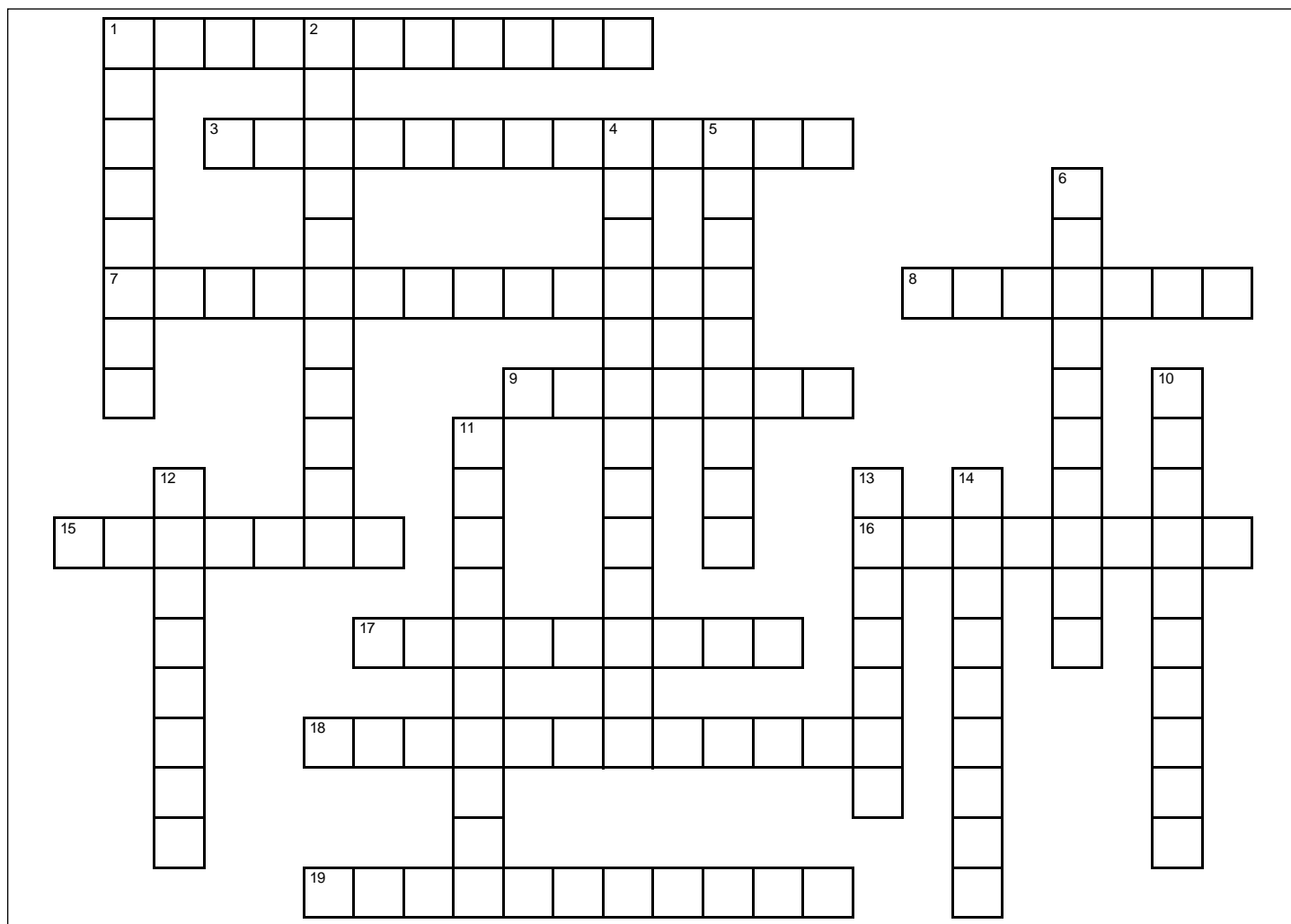
If you do, look for the 'recommended book' link in your subscriber menu when you log in to our website.

Complete the form and tell us why you enjoyed the book. If we review your choice, we'll mention your name and include some of your comments.

GLOSSARY

PRIZE COMPETITION

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword find the 20 words in the word search on the next page ➡



ACROSS

- 1 Verb** Officially made something holy so it can be used for religious ceremonies
- 3 Adjective** Advanced in development, or complicated
- 7 Adjective** Describes something that has never happened before
- 8 Noun (Plural)** Actions or words performed or spoken frequently as part of a ceremony
- 9 Verb** Chose to start using a new way of doing things, such as technology or ideas
- 15 Verb** To refuse to use a service, buy something, attend an event or take part in something, as a way of protesting
- 16 Adjective** Describes something done by medical experts
- 17 Noun (Plural)** People who campaign to bring about political or social change
- 18 Adjective** Describes something that has no final result or outcome
- 19 Noun** Buying and selling large quantities of goods or foods, sometimes done needlessly or wastefully

DOWN

- 1 Noun** A substance formed by joining two chemical elements together
- 2 Noun** The authority or legal right to do something
- 4 Adjective** Likely to cause arguments
- 5 Noun** An established custom or habit
- 6 Noun** A person who writes for a newspaper or magazine or prepares news that is broadcast on television or radio
- 10 Noun (Plural)** When two things are unequal
- 11 Noun (Plural)** Points at which electric currents enter or leave something
- 12 Noun** A condition of the brain that makes it difficult to recognise letters, read and spell
- 13 Noun (Plural)** People who made written copies of things before printing was invented
- 14 Verb** Identified the cause of an illness after making an examination

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